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Goddard Space Flight Center

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Inside Wallops

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Students Spend Summer Vacation Working At NASA Wallops Flight Facility

While most students take a break from their educational activities during the summer, nine local students are extending their "school year" at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility.

Students in the 1999 Summer High School Apprenticeship Research Program (SHARP) and the National Space Club Scholars will spend their summer vacations working in various locations at Wallops.

SHARP students will spend an eight-week internship, beginning June 21, and Space Club Scholars will spend a six-week internship, starting June 28, with a scientist or engineer.

NASA Wallops distributes applications to area high school guidance counselors in February of each year. Students then submit applications to NASA and are selected on a competitive basis for placement. Once the students have been selected, they are assigned to work with a mentor in a specific area of science or technology.

Both programs offer an intensive science and engineering apprenticeship and are designed to increase, strengthen, and diversify the pool of

students for mathematics, science and engineering college majors and careers. During the apprenticeship, students have the opportunity to conduct meaningful research and participate in a variety of educational and professional activities.

The SHARP students are Philip Baldwin, Chincoteague High School; Marcus Gunter, Nandua High School; Nicholas Holden, Arcadia High School; and Julian Avila and Kelly Habeger, both from Pocomoke High School.

Space Club Scholar students are Mitchell Nedab, Nandua High School; Richard Beyma, Pocomoke High School; and Gekeia White and Jo Young, both from Arcadia High School.

Key Appointment

Caroline Massey has been selected as the Assistant Director of Management Operations/Wallops (Code 200).

"Mission Success Starts with Safety"

Tubers in Space

Students in biology, chemistry, physics, physical science, and health research classes at Shoshone-Bannock High School in Idaho are involved in an experiment to determine the effect of space on the famous Idaho tubers (potatoes).

As a part of the Student Experiment Module (SEM) program, the students are providing tubers and seeds for SEM-06 to be flown on Space Shuttle STS-101 in early December.

The tubers will be placed in containers that also have simulated Martian soil supplied by NASA Johnson Space Center. The seeds will be in two standard SEM vials.

The students will study the effect that the space environment has on Idaho tubers and seeds as compared to a control group that remains on Earth.



Ed Galindo (far left) Science Chairman, Shoshone-Bannock High School and Ben Rinehart, (left) Lockheed Martin advisor pose with the Wallops SEM-06 project team. Photo by Tom Burton.

They will determine which tubers grow best and examine them microscopically for any environmental effects.

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes are located on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation in Idaho with approximately 4,500 members enrolled in the tribes. At one time, the reservation included 1.8 million acres of land. It presently consists of 544,000 acres.

Wallops Shorts.....

Balloon Launches — A NASA scientific balloon was successfully launched from Palestine, Texas on June 14. The 39.57 million cubic foot balloon carried a solar tracker for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), Pasadena, CA. Dr. Bruce Anspaugh of JPL was the Principal Investigator. Total float time was 8 hours 19 minutes.

A NASA scientific balloon was successfully launched from Palestine, Texas on June 17. The 29.47 million cubic foot balloon carried an infrared astronomy experiment. Dr. Paul Richards, University of California, Berkeley was the Principal Investigator. Total float time was 12 hours 53 minutes.

Sounding Rocket Launch — A Terrier-Black Brant sounding rocket was successfully launched from the White Sands Missile Range, NM on June 14. The galactic astronomy experiment was to investigate the extinction and scattering of interstellar dust in the Orion Nebula. Dr. Paul Feldman of the Johns Hopkins University was the Principal Investigator. The payload was recovered.

NASA Selects Key Space Flight Managers

NASA Associate Administrator for Space Flight Joseph Rothenberg has announced several management changes, effective immediately, in the Office of Space Flight at NASA Headquarters.

William Readdy has been appointed Deputy Associate Administrator for the Office of Space Flight. His primary duty will be to handle the day-to-day management of personnel and program activities.

Michael Hawes has been named Deputy Associate Administrator for Space Development (Space Station). Hawes' primary duties will include directing the space station budget, establishing and implementing station policy, coordinating external communications and serving as liaison to the Administration, Congress, industry and NASA's international partners.

Norm Starkey has been named Director for Space Shuttle Requirements. His primary duties will include directing the Space Shuttle budget, establishing and implementing Shuttle policy, coordinating external communications and serving as liaison to the Administration, Congress, industry and NASA's international partners.

Students Spent Senior Week at Wallops

As part of Broadwater Academy’s (Exmore, VA) Senior Career Exploration Program Christopher Moore and Darren Williams spent June 3-9 at Wallops.

Moore worked along side personnel in the Upper Air Instrumentation Research Projects Office (UAIRP, Code 972.0). He took ozone measurements, prepared ozonesonde instruments and learned about different aspects of atmospheric measurements and their role in the atmospheric sciences.

Moore was able to gain a little real world experience in his chosen career field of atmospheric science. Moore’s father, Prentiss, is a long-time Wallops employee working for Federal Data Corporation.

Williams spent his week in the Facilities Management Branch. He worked on some structural engineering problems and assisted in defining some areas in the Wallops infrastructure that need immediate repair. He also was able to get a feel for environmental engineering by participating in the Hazardous Waste program.

Williams said selecting civil engineering as his major was “indeed the right selection”.

Handling Criticism at Work

Criticism is easier to give than take — especially if it happens at work. A supervisor’s project critique or annual review can be a nerve-racking experience that can bring on all sorts of emotions.



The next time you face a review, consider these tips to lessen the chance you will be stressed out by the experience. Try to use any good criticism to improve your performance.

- * Hear out the critique, even if it is spontaneous and uninvited as long as it is constructive and by someone in a position to do so.
- * Don’t be defensive, this may escalate the situation. If you feel you are taking the criticism personally, keep quiet. You may say something you shouldn’t.
- * If you did something wrong, admit it. Sometimes this puts an end to the criticism. Honesty is always the best route.
- * Most importantly, if the criticism was given in good faith and justified, try to accept it, even if you don’t agree with it. Others may see things differently than you, be willing to admit you might be wrong.

Upcoming Courses

Introduction to Internet with Netscape

Date: July 7, 1999
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: Building E104, Room 308
Contact: Sherry Kleckner, x1204 or Kathy Dinsmore, x66-1653 by COB June 25, 1999
Course Description:
<http://ohr.gsfc.nasa.gov/gsfrc/training/Annualcal/COMPUTER.HTM#networks1>

Introduction to Web Publishing with Html

Date: July 12-13, 1999
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: Building E104, Room 308
Contact: Sherry Kleckner, x1204 or Kathy Dinsmore, xx6-1653 by COB June 22, 1999
Course Description:
<http://ohr.gsfc.nasa.gov/gsfrc/training/Annualcal/COMPUTER.HTM#networks3>

All training requests must reach Code 114 by the COB date listed for each course. Notification of enrollment is generally done via e-mail. For additional training information, visit the Office of Human Resources computer course web site at:
<http://ohr.gsfc.nasa.gov/gsfrc/training/Annualcal/COMPUTER.HTM>



ODIN Help Desk Changes

The ODIN IntelliCenter will be operating from the NASA Glenn Research Center effective June 28, 1999.

The new IntelliCenter number will be 1-877-447-4968. Other than the phone number, the process will be the same.

The following improvements to the IntelliCenter are being implemented with the change:

- IntelliCenter customer data same as ODO customer data
- Single database source of ticket information
- Local access to database, minimizing chance of lost or misdirected tickets
- NASA experienced Help Desk personnel.

If you have any questions or concerns about the change, contact Von Jenkins on the Customer Outreach Hotline, 9-1-877-367-6346 or Debbie Watson, x2200.

Critical Computer Virus Alert

A new worm is circulating among the Internet community.

The Worm.ExploreZip program arrives attached to an e-mail message that seems to have been sent by someone the recipient knows. The attached file is a Windows program with the name “zipped_files.exe.” The worm virus aggressively destroys user data files. (Do not execute e-mail attachments named “zipped_files.exe.”)

If the recipient is running Microsoft Windows and innocently clicks on the icon representing the attachment, the malicious program swings into action.

First, it damages the user’s system by setting the lengths of data files to zero. (Because the files still exist, the devastating damage may not be immediately obvious. Next, if the victim is running Microsoft Outlook, Worm.ExploreZip begins to mail itself out in reply to each new message that appears in the victim’s “Inbox.”

For more information, ODIN users should contact the Intellicenter or check the ODIN information web site at <http://www.ODIN.RMSINFO.COM/>. Non ODIN users should contact their systems administrators.

The FEGLI open season ends June 30. Civil service employees are eligible to increase the amount of coverage they currently hold. Note that any changes you select will become effective on April 23, 2000. Refer to the 1999 FEGLI Open Season materials for new changes and options.

Contact Janet Morgan at x66-4709 for any FEGLI Open Season questions.

Reminder: The Thrift Savings Plan open season ends July 31.

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